General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 52 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/63/417/Add.1)*]

63/227. Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,[2]

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3]

Recalling further its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[4]

Recalling also its resolution 62/203 of 19 December 2007,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/37 of 25 July 2008,

Taking note also of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Least Developed Countries on 29 September 2008 in New York,[5]

Reaffirming that the Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for a strong global partnership, whose goal is to accelerate sustained economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication in the least developed countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[6] and his note on the modalities of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;[7]

[1] A/CONF.191/13, chap I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

[5] A/C.2/63/8, annex.

[6] A/63/77-E/2008/61.

[7] A/63/284.

2. *Welcomes* the contributions made in the lead-up to the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,[2] and notes the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010[8] as an initiative owned and led by the least developed countries;

3. *Also welcomes* the Declaration[9] adopted by Heads of State and Government and heads of delegations participating in the high-level meeting of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, in which they recommitted themselves to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries by making progress towards the goals of poverty eradication, peace and development;

4. *Decides* to convene, as called for in paragraph 114 of the Programme of Action, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 2011 for a duration of not more than five working days, with the following mandate:

(*a*) To undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action by the least developed countries and their development partners, share best practices and lessons learned, and identify obstacles and constraints encountered as well as actions and initiatives needed to overcome them;

(*b*) To identify effective international and domestic policies in the light of the outcome of the appraisal as well as new and emerging challenges and opportunities and the means to address them;

(*c*) To reaffirm the global commitment to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries made at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit, in particular the needs related to sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions, and to support the least developed countries in eradicating poverty and integrating beneficially into the global economy;

(*d*) To mobilize additional international support measures and action in favour of the least developed countries, and, in this regard, to formulate and adopt a renewed partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners;

5. *Also decides* to convene, towards the end of 2010 and/or early in 2011, an intergovernmental preparatory committee, which would hold no more than two meetings;

6. *Further decides* that the meeting of the preparatory committee will be preceded by two regional-level preparatory meetings, one in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the other in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in the context of the regular annual sessions of each Commission, those regional-level meetings to be supported by broad-based and inclusive country-level preparations;

7. *Stresses* that the Conference and the preparatory activities should be carried out within the budget level proposed by the Secretary-General for the

[8] A/61/117, annex I.

[9] See resolution 61/1.

biennium 2010–2011 and should be organized in the most effective and efficient manner possible;

8. *Decides* to take a decision on the organizational aspects, date and venue of the Conference, and on the venue, duration and dates of the preparatory committee meetings, before the end of its sixty-third session;

9. *Recognizes* the importance of the contributions of civil society actors at the Conference and in its preparatory process, and in this regard stresses the need for their active participation in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

10. *Decides* that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States will be the focal point for the preparations for the Conference, in accordance with mandates given in General Assembly resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001, to ensure that those preparations are carried out effectively, and to mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

11. *Requests* the organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions, the specialized agencies, and funds and programmes, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to provide necessary support and actively contribute to the preparatory process and to the Conference itself;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, as appropriate, the full involvement of resident coordinators and country teams in preparations for the Conference, in particular in the country- and regional-level preparations;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system in the preparatory process for the Conference in a coordinated and coherent manner, inter alia, by making use of the existing coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system;

14. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010 as well as on the implementation of the present resolution, including a report on the state of the substantive, organizational and logistic preparations for the Conference.

72nd plenary meeting
19 December 2008